IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of   :   February 13, 2002

A. Mohindra, et al   :   Group Art No.:

Serial No. To be assigned   :   Examiner:

Filed: February 13, 2002   :   for IBM Corporation
                                  Anne Vachon Dougherty
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS   3173 Cedar Road
       FOR ENABLING LOCATION   Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
       INDEPENDENT AND LOCATION
       TRANSPARENT INTERACTION
       BETWEEN PROGRAM AND USER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed simultaneously with the filing of a CPA-Divisional Application under 37 CFR 1.53(b).

In the claims:

Cancel already allowed claims 1-10, which are the subject of a patent issuing on the parent application.

Amend Claim 13 as set forth on the following pages.

MARKED UP CLAIM WITH AMENDMENT SHOWN

13. (Amended) The method of Claim [2] 12 further comprising the step of maintaining a bag buffer in the program and wherein the retrieving step comprises the steps of:

searching, in the bag buffer, for input values associated with the input variables;

updating, if found, the input variables with the input values;

disposing, in an input buffer, the input variables, if not found; and

optionally notifying the user via electronic means if no suitable values are found in the bag buffer.

NEW CLAIM WITH INCORPORATED AMENDMENT

13. The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of maintaining a bag buffer in the program and wherein the retrieving step comprises the steps of:

searching, in the bag buffer, for input values associated with the input variables;

updating, if found, the input variables with the input values;

disposing, in an input buffer, the input variables, if not found; and

optionally notifying the user via electronic means if no suitable values are found in the bag buffer.
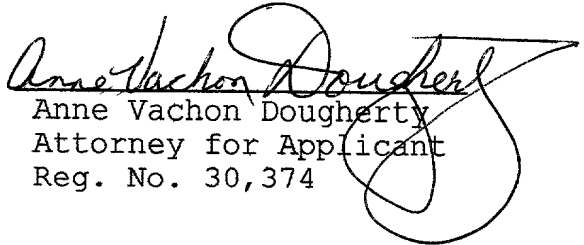
REMARKS

Applicants are canceling the claims which have been allowed in the parent application.

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants are correcting the dependency of Claim 13 to depend from Claim 12.

Applicants respectfully request prosecution of Claims 11-24.

Respectfully submitted,
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